

Quick's Bottom: A case study in wetland restoration.

Lehna Malmkvist, Swell Environmental Consulting*

Brian LaCas, LaCas Consultants Ltd.

Gerald Fleming, District of Saanich, Parks Department

Keywords: wetland, restoration, agriculture, riparian vegetation, invasive species

Quick's Bottom is a wetland park located in the District of Saanich on southern Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Historically, the Colquitz River which flowed through the wetland was moved to edge of the wetland and used to drain the site for agricultural purposes. The site is heavily invaded by reed canary grass and the wetland was cut off from the Colquitz River resulting in high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels. In 2000 the Saanich Parks Department began a multi-year restoration program for the wetland. The restoration has included re-creating channels to restore flows and planting riparian vegetation. Further planting is planned to control the reed canary grass, maintain the open channels and provide a variety of habitats for birds and wildlife in the area. Ultimately, the goal for the wetland restoration is to improve its ecological function and provide additional habitat for salmonids in the Colquitz River system. The presentation will examine this site as a case study for wetland restoration on former agricultural sites, including re-introducing water flow, controlling invasive species and restoring native riparian vegetation. The discussion will include the planning and design process, the practical aspects of wetland restoration and future plans and maintenance.